

**Information Search, Retrieval and Distillation
Into Knowledge Objects**

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ABSTRACT

The invention provides for various methods and apparatuses for

10 searching bodies of knowledge, such as previously indexed source documents
reachable over a network, search results from previous searches, and results
from performing meta-searches. Search criteria is received from a client, and the
bodies of knowledge are searched based on the search criteria, and search
results provided responsive to said searching. Search results may be
15 configured to have associated distillation triggers, where selecting a trigger
causes its associated search result to be distilled in real-time. Distilled search
results can be indexed into portions of the source document for focused entry,
and can also be grouped and analytically presented on mid-menus to allow the
user to review distilled data in summary form. Results may also have associated
20 status symbols indicating by symbol a particular topic area to which a result is
related, and by opacity or other indicator the apparent relevance of a result to the
particular topic area. Search and viewing preferences may be determined
according to psychometrics, user selection of a default user category, through a
question/answer session, or based on monitoring user activity which
25 incrementally defines a profile.